

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NIAMEY 03674 201504Z

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SUBJECT: PRESIDENT DIORI'S REPUBLIC DAY MESSAGE

1. IN ADDRESS TO NATION ON DEC 17 MARKING THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC PRESIDENT DIORI NOTED THAT 1973 WAS YEAR OF DETENTE BETWEEN THE TWO SUPER-POWERS BUT WARNED OF DANGER FOR MANKIND IF WORLD PEACE CONTINUED REST SOLELY ON DICTATES OF TWO SUPER-POWERS AND UNDERLINED NEED FOR DIALOGUE AND HARMONIZATION AS REPLACEMENT. REFERRING TO ISRAEL, DIORI SAID NIGER CANNOT ACCEPT PREMISE OF RIGHT OF CONQUEST AND ANNEXATION. TURNING TO CHELE, PRESIDENT DESCRIBED RECENT EVENTS THERE AS QUOTE BLIND AND BLOODY REACTION BY FORCES OF RETROGRESSION UNQUOTE. PRESIDENT PRAISED FRANC ZONE TREATY SIGNED IN DAKAR DEC 4 AS STEP TOWARDS MEETING DEVELOPMENT NEEDS OF MEMBER STATES. DIORI TERMED UPCOMING VISIT OF GENERAL GOWON TESTIMONY TO CLOSE TIES BETWEEN NIGER AND ITS QUOTE LARGE AND POWERFUL NEIGHBOR UNQUOTE.

2. CONCERNING DOMESTIC ISSUES, PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED CURRENT UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 NIAMEY 03674 201504Z

FOOD SITUATION WORSE THAN LAST YEAR AND 300,000 TONS GRAIN

WOULD NEED BE IMPORTED. TO OVERCOME EFFECTS OF DROUGHT, HE CALLED FOR LONG-TERM CREDITS FROM INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AS WELL AS MOBILIZATION OF VILLAGERS BEFORE NEXT RAINY SEASON TO IMPROVE SITES FOR RAIN COLLECTING PONDS AND PLANT TREES AS WINDBREAKS. DIORI EXPRESSED HOPE THAT ABOVE CONSERVATION MEASURES PLUS CLOUD SEEDING PROGRAM WOULD INCREASE GRAIN PRODUCTION SIGNIFICANTLY. IN RECONSTITUTING DECIMATED HERES, HE SAID EMPHASIS WOULD BE PLACED ON QUALITY RATHER THAN QUANTITY AS DICTATED BY TRADITION IN PAST. GON PLANNED ESTABLISH NEW ARTISANAL CENTER NEAR AGADEZ TO GIVE NOMADS CHANCE PROFIT FROM THEIR TRADITIONAL HANDICRAFTS. POLITICAL REFORMS GIVING VILLAGERS A VOICE IN THE ALLOCATION OF DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS WERE ALSO ANNOUNCED.

3. DIORI MADE RARE PUBLIC ALLUSION TO STUDENT AGITATION, NOTING ALL COUNTRIES HAVE THEIR STUDENT PROBLEMS BUT THAT EXPERIENCE SHOWS YOUNG REVOLUTIONARIES WHO GIVEN PUBLIC RESPONSIBILITY PERFORM NO BETTER AND SOMEIMES EVEN WORSE THAN PREDECESSORS. HE DENIED THAT NIGER'S PEASANTS HAVE BECOME SUSCEPTIBLE TO STUDENT AGITATION. AGAIN REFERRING TO STUDENTS, HE CRITICIZED THOSE WHO PROCLAIM THEMSELVES SUPER PATRIOTS BUT WHO IN FACT FOLLOW ORDERS FROM ABROAD.

4. PRESIDENT ENDED MESSAGE WITH APPEAL FOR COMPATRIOTS TO UNITE IN ORDER SURMOUNT PRESENT DIFFICULTIES.

5. MORE DETAILED AIRGRAM FOLLOWS.BUCHE

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